Agricultural Growth Rate

† 469. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for coming years a target of four per cent annual rate of growth has fixed for the agricultural-products in the country;

(b) if not, what is this target;

(c) whether assessment with regard to the required capital for achieving this target has been made;

(d) if so, the estimate with regard to the total capital needed for the agricultural sector; and

(e) the sources identified for providing it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) The value of agricultural output is targetted to increase at annual rate of 4.5% in the Ninth Plan. To, achieve this target, Ninth Plan envisages Public Sector Outlay of Rs. 42,462 crores for agricultural and allied activities. The sources identified for this outlay are Rs. 14876 crore from centre and Rs. 27586 crore from State Governments.

Effect of Import Policy on Agricultural Sector

470. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will' the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agriculture sector the largest

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

provider of the income and employment is facing a sharp drop in employment and income as a result of the import policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the disproportionate ratio between foodgrain and production and population growth might reach a stage where the country would run shot of foodgrains; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government on national level keeping in view the plight of farmers mainly from the milk producing areas of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) There has been an upward trend in agricultural production in recent years showing a positive influence on income and employment. Against the normative foodgrain requirement of 192.39 million tonnes for the year 1999, the production of foodgrains was estimated to be 203.04 million tonnes for the crop year 1998-99. Thus, the country has become not only self-sufficient, but also in a position to export foodgrains. In 1999-2000, the country is expected to achieve a record foodgrain production of 205.94 million tonnes. The Government has been using import tariffs as an instrument to protect the interests of the farmers and towards this end, the basic import-tariffs has been raised on a number of agricultural items, in recent months.

Misuse of Funds in Krishi Vigyan Kendra

471. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been complaints that crores of rupees have been siphoned off from Government in the name of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, several of them that are non-existent send manipulated audit utilization reports; and

(b) if so, the details and steps being taken, if any, to check this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No,